

2008 SKYWARN™ Recognition Day
Saturday, December 6, 2008
0000 UTC – 2400 UTC
(7 pm EST Friday – 7 pm EST Saturday)

The 2008 SKYWARN™ Recognition Day will be held on December 6, 2008 from 0000 UTC until 2400 UTC (7 pm EST Friday until 7 pm EST Saturday). SKYWARN™ Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service (NWS) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN™ radio operators make to the NWS.

The NWS and the ARRL both recognize the importance that amateur radio provides during severe weather. Many NWS offices acquire real time weather information from amateur radio operators in the field. These operators, for example, may report the position of a tornado, the height of flood waters, or damaging wind speeds during hurricanes. All of this information is critical to the mission of the NWS which is to preserve life and property. The special event celebrates this special contribution by amateur radio operators.

It is estimated that 100 NWS stations will participate this year. Each NWS station will transmit on different amateur radio frequencies and modes depending on the individual capabilities at each site. Most stations will operate on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 2 meters using phone operations. However, some sites will utilize other modes like PSK-31, RTTY, packet, and CW. The use of repeaters to make contacts is allowed. VoIP modes like IRLP and Echolink are also encouraged. Remember, this is not a contest, so no scoring will be computed. The main object of this special event is for amateur radio stations to exchange contact information with as many NWS stations as possible.

Amateur radio operators in west central Florida are invited to help their local NWS office. The NWS in Ruskin is looking for amateur radio volunteers who may be interested in operating the NWS Ruskin amateur radio station, WX4TOR, during SKYWARN™ Recognition Day. If you are interested, please contact Nick Petro, WX3H, via e-mail at the following address: **Nicholas.Petro@noaa.gov**.

Although SKYWARN™ Recognition Day is primarily focused on the amateur radio event, all SKYWARN™ volunteers, regardless of whether they are a licensed amateur radio operator or not, are welcome to stop by the NWS office in Ruskin for a brief tour. Tours will be given on Saturday, December 6, 2008, from 9 am until Noon.

Additional information regarding the SKYWARN™ Recognition Day amateur radio special event can be found online at **<http://hamradio.noaa.gov>**.